

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A heat exchanger~~ The combination according to claim ~~38~~ 40, wherein a circumferential edge of a fuel-outflow-side opening portion of each of the plurality of holes is chamfered to form the avoiding portions.

2-6. (Withdrawn)

B1 7. (Currently Amended) The ~~heat exchanger~~ combination according to claim 1, wherein the liquid fuel is a mixed fuel of methanol and water for producing hydrogen required for a fuel battery, and the mixed fuel vaporized is supplied to a reforming reactor for reforming methanol to produce hydrogen.

8-37. (Withdrawn)

38. (Canceled)

39. (New) A heat exchanger comprising:

a heating medium channel for passing a high-temperature heating medium;

a fuel channel provided adjacent to the heating medium channel and separated from the heating medium channel through a partition wall, the fuel channel being supplied with liquid fuel from above the heating medium channel to vaporize the liquid fuel by heat exchange with the high-temperature heating medium;

a fuel supply plate provided above the heating medium channel, the fuel supply plate having a means for passing the liquid fuel by drops; and

avoiding means for preventing the liquid fuel drops, flown out from the means for passing, from being mixed with each other.

40. (New) A heat exchanger in combination with a fuel battery, the heat exchanger comprising:

a heating medium channel for passing a high-temperature heating medium;

BI a fuel channel provided adjacent to the heating medium channel and separated from the heating medium channel through a partition wall, the fuel channel being supplied with liquid fuel from above the heating medium channel to vaporize the liquid fuel by heat exchange with the high-temperature heating medium;

a fuel supply plate provided above the heating medium channel, the fuel supply plate having a plurality of holes for passing the liquid fuel; and

avoiding portions for preventing the liquid fuel, flown out from adjacent ones of said plurality of holes, from being mixed with each other.

41. (New) The combination according to claim 1, wherein each of the chamfers are outwardly extending.

42. (New) The combination according to claim 1, wherein each of the chamfers has a periphery on the fuel-outflow-side of the fuel plate, and said periphery is larger than that of its respective hole.

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